

RWS 1302

ONLINE | FALL 2020 | CRN 13787

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online office hours. TWR 2:00 – 3:00 PM, and by appointment, through Blackboard Collaborate.

Program Overview

At UTEP, the First-Year Composition (FYC) program in the English department offers two first-year courses that are typically taken as a sequence, RWS 1301—Rhetoric and Composition I and RWS 1302—Rhetoric and Composition II. These courses are intended to help students develop their rhetorical and writing knowledge and skills within these five knowledge domains: writing process knowledge, subject matter knowledge, rhetorical knowledge, genre knowledge, and discourse community knowledge. Therefore, we teach writing as a complex activity through which students are given guidance and often collaborate. Drawing on the rich scholarship of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, we have designed our courses to help students address the challenges of 21st century composing. In these courses, students are empowered to determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts.

In fall 2020, all sections of RWS 1301 and 1302 will be taught online. Regardless of the delivery system, the FYC program reminds students that the primary purpose of these classes are the learning and practice of writing. The Conference on College Composition and Communication together with the Council of Writing Program Administrators state:

Writing classes teach writing: Principally, writing classes foreground writing itself as a complex, distributed activity premised upon sociality and community formation, processes and materials, flexibility, and ethical communication. Writing classes may involve participants in purposeful interpersonal interactions (discussions and conversations), writing-related activities (peer review, studying features in model texts), and interpreting texts (making meaning individually or together with others); however, the activity of writing itself continues to be central to what a writing class sponsors.

CCCC and CWPA Joint Statement in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Course Outcomes

At the end of these FYC courses, students will be able to:

Critical thinking and reading

- Think, read, and write analytically and reflectively

- Address specific, immediate rhetorical situations and their effects on individuals and communities
- Read a diverse range of texts and apply these texts to different audiences, contexts, and situations

Composing practices

- Read and compose in several genres to understand how genre conversations shape and are shaped by readers' and writers' practices and purposes
- Develop composing processes appropriate to writing style, audience, and assignment
- Use composing processes and tools as a means to discover and reconsider ideas, generate writing, and make meaning
- Engage with a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work
- Develop writing projects through multiple drafts by learning flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
- Give, receive, and act on productive feedback from peers and instructors to work in progress

Research

- Learn to formulate research questions, methods for research, and analyze and synthesize material
- Develop 21st century technological literacies and modalities needed for researching and composing
- Locate and evaluate primary and secondary materials, such as: journal articles and essays, books, scholarly and professionally established and maintained databases and archives, and informal electronic networks and internet sources
- Learn writing strategies for integrating source material into your own prose (quoted, paraphrased, and summarized material)
- Apply research to various genres and cite sources in American Psychological Association Style (APA) or Modern Language Association Style (MLA)

Assessment

- Use reflective learning strategies to self-assess and understand one's processes and products
- Collaborate
- Integrate and act on critical feedback from peers and instructors
- Understand and examine critically the reasons behind writing conventions in fields and disciplines

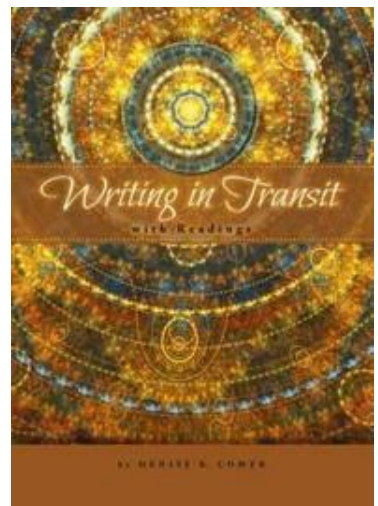


Course Description

Rhetoric & Composition 2 (RWS 1302) aims to develop your critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective communication in all educational, professional, and social contexts. This effective communication is based on awareness of and appreciation for discourse communities as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process. The class presents an approach to communication that helps students determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts. In addition, because communication is central to being an active and engaged member of society, the course also provides a space for informed advocacy.

Required Texts & Materials

- Comer, D. K. (2017). *Writing in transit* (2nd ed.). Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press. ISBN: 9781680366365.
 - Available at the UTEP Bookstore: <https://www.bkstr.com/texaselpasostore/product/writing-in-transit-17416-1>
- Bossie, R., & LaPrade, P. (2019). *The first-year composition handbook* (19th ed.). ISBN: 9781732611214.
 - E-book access code available at the UTEP Bookstore: <https://www.bkstr.com/texaselpasostore/product/the-first-year-composition-handbook-913801-1>
 - This e-book is also available directly through the RedShelf platform: <https://www.redshelf.com/>



Step-by-step instructions for redeeming your FYC Handbook access code on the RedShelf platform:

1. Go to <https://www.redshelf.com/>.
2. Click on “Log In” (top right corner).
3. Select “Create an Account” (middle of the screen).
4. Enter the required information and click on “Create Account.”
5. Log into your account, then paste your access code under “Redeem Your RedShelf Access Code.”
6. Click on the directional arrow (>) next to your code to access the book.



- Additional sources will be posted on Blackboard.
- Cloud service or flash drive to save your coursework files; Google Drive and Dropbox are two excellent free services for saving work. **Please keep all of your coursework until final grades are posted for the semester.**

Online Course Delivery

Course Delivery: In fall 2020, RWS 1302 will be held fully online. The course is designed to engage students through discussions with your classmates and instructor through Blackboard (Bb), UTEP's Learning Management System (LMS). The course will rely extensively on Blackboard, though your individual instructor may supplement it by incorporating other platforms and various media. In order to succeed in the course, you will need to have regular use of the internet and a stable connection. Although you can use the Blackboard App on your phone, it is highly recommended that you compose your work for class, and perform class activities, via a computer. If you don't have a computer or reliable internet at home, the university can help you with resources: **Technology Support - UTEP**. Forms to apply for a laptop or wifi hotspot are [available here](#). Please speak with your instructor immediately if you will need assistance. We want you to have the opportunity to succeed in class without concern about access. There are also computers available for you to use in the library on campus.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

Students can prepare for the course by familiarizing themselves with the "Ready for Online Learning" guides to acclimate to online learning:

- Dispelling the Myths of Taking an Online Class
- Check Your Technology
- Communicating Effectively Online
- Managing Your Time Before It Manages You
- Online Teamwork
- Netiquette Guide for Online Courses

These guides are available on the navigation bar on the Blackboard shell for RWS 1302.

Students can also prepare by taking the [Blackboard Student Orientation](#).

Submitting Work: All work will be submitted through the Bb course shell for this class. Since Bb comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, please submit all assignments in Microsoft Word following APA or MLA format unless directed otherwise. Be sure to name each submitted assignment with your name and the title of the assignment. (For example: jmartinez rhetanalysis draft; jmartinez rhetanalysis final).

Late Work: For major assignments, I accept late work for 12 hours after the assigned due date. Please contact me as soon as possible regarding any circumstances that affect your ability to complete coursework on time.

Participation: Active participation is vital to your success in this online course. This includes engaging with classmates through discussion activities and working toward major assignments through frequent writing activities.

Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette:

- Debate, critical inquiry, and intellectual diversity are essential elements to higher education and a process of learning. There is the potential during this course for controversial and sensitive topics to be discussed during small group or whole class interaction, and to surface through discussion board postings. You are expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy for your peers and instructor when they express differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be permitted. Angry displays, whether in writing, online postings, or in class discussions will be handled as disruptions to the wellbeing of the class and responded to as negative participation.
- As a general rule: always consider audience, in class and online. As Virginia Shea writes in Netiquette, the first, or "golden," rule of online practice is to "Remember the human." Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your postings. When reacting to someone else's message (verbal or written), address the ideas, not the person, and post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for your RWS classmates and instructor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

University & Program Policies

FYC Class Attendance Policy: According to UTEP's Curriculum and Classroom Policies:

The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor can drop the student from the class with a grade of W before the course-drop deadline or with a grade of F after the course-drop deadline. Please consult UTEP's Curriculum and Classroom Policies for more information regarding Excused Absences for University-Recognized Activities, Absence for Religious Holy Days, and Military Leave.

Attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. The class discussions will help students learn to improve their writing, often through the discussion of a sample student project (sometimes the student's, sometimes one written by a classmate).

In addition, the First-Year Composition Program has developed the following policies that should be adhered to strictly by all instructors:

For Face-to-Face Classes: Students are entitled to a single week of unexplained absences without penalty (for example, 3 classes missed in a three-times-a-week class, 2 classes missed in twice-a-week class, 1 class missed in a once-a-week class).

Activity #5	Preliminary research	Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Looking Ahead: Week 9 Activity	Mini Annotated Bibliography	Next Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Week 9— October 19 th -25 th		
Reading(s) due by the end of the week	Read "Synthesis" (WiT, pp. 221-251).	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Quiz #7	Quiz on "Summary" (Week 8 reading) and "Synthesis"	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Activity #6	Engaging with sources	
Activity #7	Mini Annotated Bibliography	Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Week 10— October 26 th -November 1 st		
Videos to watch by the end of the week	Watch " Shelter in Place " (Bb) (13:46 minutes) and " 24 Hours in the Life of America's Essential Workers " (Bb) (12:40 minutes)	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Reading(s) due by the end of the week	Read "Choosing and Integrating Evidence: Quotes, Paraphrases, Visual Materials, and Data" (WiT, pp. 464-494).	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Discussion activity #8	Analysis of "Shelter in Place" and "24 Hours in the Life of America's Essential Workers"	Discussion post due Friday at 11:59 PM. Brief responses to two classmates due Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Quiz #8	Quiz on "Choosing and Integrating Evidence"	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Activity #8	Primary research plans	Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Week 11— November 2 nd -8 th		
Film to watch by the end of the week (2 choices)	2 choices: Watch The Garden (1 hr 20 min) (Bb) OR Las Marthas (Bb) (1 hr 19 min)	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Reading(s) due by the end of the week	Read "Constructing Arguments" (WiT, pp. 399-424)	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Discussion activity #9	Analysis of <i>The Garden</i> OR <i>Las Marthas</i>	Discussion post due Friday at 11:59 PM. Brief responses to two classmates due Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Quiz #9	Quiz on "Constructing Arguments"	Friday at 11:59 PM.
Looking Ahead: Assignment #2	Literature Review/Research Report	Next Sunday at 11:59 PM.
Week 12— November 9 th -15 th		

